Pat ern ity and mat erni ty of Ro man deiti es

to imply paternity and maternity; and if the implication is admitted, the inference appears to be inevitable that these divine beings were

supposed to exercise sexual whether in functions, lawful marriage orin unlawful concubinage. As to Jupiter in particular his paternity is positively attested by Latin inscriptions, one of them very old, which describe Fortuna Primigenia, the great goddess of Praeneste,

as his daughter.¹ Again, the rustic deity Faunus, one of the oldest and most popular gods of Italy,² was represented by tradition in the character of a husband and a father; one of the epithets applied to

him expressed in a coarse way his generative powers.³ Fauna or the Good Goddess (Bona Deal another of the oldest native Italian deities, was variously called his wife or his daughter, and he is said to have assumed the form of a snake in order to cohabit with her.⁴

Again, the most famous of all Roman myths represented the founder

Sekctae^ Latinae 3950-3955, Nos. 3960; as to Mother Ops see Varro, De lingua Latina^ as to 64; Mother Matuta see L. Ro-Preller, mische Mythologiep i. mische Mythologiep i. 322 sqq.; G. "Wissowa, Religion - zind Kultus der Romer^ pp. 110 sqq.; id., S.TJ* " Mater Matuta," in W. H. Roscher's Lexikon der griech. itnd row. Mythologie^ ii. 2462 sqq. Leite these 2462 sqq. I cite these only that the passages to prove commonly Romans applied the titles and father" "mother" to their deities. The inference that these titles implied paternity or maternity is my own, but in the text I have given some reasons for that the thinking

Romans themselves accepted the implication, Mr. W. Warde Fowler, on the other hand. prefers to suppose that the titles were employed in a merely figurative to "imply dependence of the human citizen upon his divine protector"; but he admits that what actly the Romans understood by pater and matey applied to deities is not easy to determine (The Religious Experience of the Roman People, pp. 155-157). He makes at the same time important the observation that the Romans never, so far as he is aware, applied the terms Father and Mother to foreign gods, but "always

indigeteS) those on whom the original Roman stock looked as their fellow-citizens and guardians." The limitation is significant and seems more naturally explicable on my hypothesis

than on that of my learned friend. ¹ See Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, xiv. Nos. 2862, 2863; H. Dessau, Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae, Nos. 3684, 3685; R. Peter, s.v. ** Fortuna," in W. H. Roscher's Lexikon der griechischen und romischen *Mythologie,* i. 1542; G. Wissowa, Religion ttnd Kztltus der Rb'mer? p. 259. I have to thank my learned and candid friend Mr. W. Warde Fowler for referring me to this good evidence of Jupiter's paternal character.

² L. Preller, Rbmische Mythologie*(Berlin, 1881-1883), i. 379.

³ The epithet

Jnuus applied to

Faunus was so

understood by the ancients, and this suffices to prove the conception they had of the god's virility, whether the etymology was right or wrong. See Servius, on Virgil, Aen. vi. 775, "Dicitur aittem Inuzis ab ineundo passim cum otnnib-its animalibus" As to the title see G. Wissowa, Religion und Kultns der Rb'mer^ p. 211, who, however, rejects the ancient etymology and the identification of Inuus with Faunus. ⁴ Macrobius, Saturn, -i. 12. 21-24; Lactantius, Divin. Instit. i. 22; Servius, on Virgil, Aen. viii. 314; Plutarch, Caesar-t 9: id Ovaest 9; id., Q Roman. 20. Quaest. According to Varro., the goddess was the daughter of Faunus (Macrobius, Saturn, i. 12, 27); according to Sextus Clodius she was his wife (Lactantius, compare Arnobius, Adversus nationes, v. 18).